



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Deric Willoughby et al

**SEVEN INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN TWO SEPARATE CASES
INVOLVING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

Three individuals from the Toledo, Ohio area have been arrested on charges that they engaged in a conspiracy involving the exploitation of children and transportation of children for the purpose of prostitution. The fourth individual from Tennessee is currently being sought by law enforcement, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Charged in the indictment are:

Deric Willoughby, age 40, Toledo, Ohio

Brandy Shope, age 19, Toledo, Ohio

Jennifer Huskey, age 24, Toledo, Ohio

Richard Lamar Gordon, age 40, Etowah, Tennessee

The indictment alleges that during May 2005, the defendants Deric Willoughby, Brandy Shope, Jennifer Huskey and Richard Lamar Gordon engaged in a conspiracy to commit the offenses of sexual exploitation of children and transportation of children for the purposes of prostitution. Specifically, defendants are alleged to have transported two minor girls from their hometown of Toledo, Ohio to Michigan for the purpose of forcing the two minors to engage in commercial sexual acts for money. The minor girls were instructed by defendants Shope and Huskey that they would be prostituting themselves for Willoughby and that they would have to obey him or suffer physical harm. During the ten days that the minors were being held by Willoughby, Shope and Huskey, each minor was physically assaulted by Willoughby in addition to being forced to engage in several different commercial sexual acts as defendants Shope and Huskey watched, participated and collected money from patrons. At one point during the conspiracy, defendant Willoughby, Shope and Huskey transported the two minor girls to a Sears parking lot in Toledo, Ohio where they met co-defendant Richard Lamar Gordon. Gordon, a truck driver, transported the women to a truck stop in Michigan where he paid to have sex with one of the minors, while the other minor, accompanied by defendant Shope, was forced to engage in commercial sexual acts with other truckers at the truck stop.

Defendants Willoughby, Shope and Huskey were arrested in Toledo, Ohio and transported to Detroit, Michigan where they are currently being held by the U.S. Marshal Service. Defendant Gordon is currently being sought by law enforcement officers. Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Gordon are asked to call the Federal Bureau of Investigation at (313) 965-2323.

United States v. Robert Lewis Young et al

Robert Lewis Young, 44 of Detroit, Jeffrey McCoy, 44 of Detroit, and George Abro, 29 of Detroit were indicted December 13, 2005 by a federal grand jury in Detroit. The defendants were charged with 27 counts of violating federal statutes including the sex trafficking of children, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, transportation of a minor for criminal sexual activity, transportation for prostitution, sexual exploitation of children, interstate distribution of child pornography, threatening interstate communications, possession with the intent to distribute marijuana, felon in possession of a firearm, money laundering, and use of interstate

facility in aid of racketeering. The indictment also includes a forfeiture provision related to the instrumentalities and proceeds of Young's illegal activities.

The federal investigation stems from Young's prostitution enterprise that spanned from Michigan to Hawaii. The investigation revealed Young recruited women and children to prostitute for him and, as a result, reaped substantial financial benefit. The indictment further alleges that Young laundered the proceeds of those illegal prostitution activities with the help of un-indicted co-conspirators. Young also operated a web-based escort business that featured pornography and included child pornography of identifiable minors. Further, Young, with others, owned and operated a travel brokerage/agency located in Honolulu, Hawaii. The travel agency furthered the prostitution enterprise, including funneling the proceeds to Young and facilitating the interstate travel of the victims prostitutes, including minors. Additionally, the District of Hawaii yesterday charged Young with 21 counts of violating federal statutes including the sex trafficking of children, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, transportation of a minor for criminal sexual activity, transportation for prostitution, distribution of child pornography, money laundering, and use of interstate facility in aid of racketeering.

The District of Hawaii also charged Young's bodyguard and accomplice, Joe Awethe, via criminal complaint, with aiding and abetting the sex trafficking of children and the transportation of a minor for criminal sexual activity.

Robert Young was arrested and detained yesterday in Las Vegas, Jeffrey McCoy was arrested and detained yesterday in Honolulu, Hawaii. Young and McCoy will be transported to Michigan within the next ten days. George Abro will be turning himself into federal authorities on Monday.

If convicted on any of the charges in the indictment, defendant face a sentencing range of five years in prison to a statutory maximum sentence of forty years. Any sentenced imposed will be in accordance with the U.S. Sentencing Guideline and the criminal history, if any, of the defendants.

The investigation is being conducted by the FBI, Michigan State Police, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, IRS, Detroit Major Crimes Task Force, Detroit Police Department, and the Macomb County Enforcement Team. In Hawaii, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force comprised of members from the State's Attorney General Office, the FBI, Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Honolulu Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Michigan, Assistant U.S. Attorney John O'Brien and Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section Trial Attorney Kayla Bakshi. The charges in Hawaii are being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Hawaii, Assistant U.S. Attorney Wes Porter.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. It will be the government's burden to prove guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.